

reporter vector with the compound of interest. Compounds identified employing invention methods are useful in the treatment of pathological conditions such as, for example, diabetes.

By the present communication, claims 1-15 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 16-26 are pending.

The restriction of claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. 121, as allegedly being drawn to distinct inventions, is respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that the Group I claims (i.e., claims 22-26, drawn to methods of treating medical disorders) and the Group II claims (i.e., claims 16-21, drawn to methods of testing compounds for use in the treatment of medical disorders), could be readily processed in the same application. The two Groups are intimately related since both Groups describe methods for modulating the effects of PPAR- $\gamma$ . Indeed, compounds identified by the Group II method are suitable for use in the Group I method. Thus, a prior art search of one group would of necessity involve a search of the other group. Therefore, no conservation of PTO resources would be realized if the restriction requirement is maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are respectfully requested.

In order to be fully responsive, Applicants elect the Group II claims (i.e., claims 16-21, drawn to methods of testing compounds for use in the treatment of medical disorders) with traverse. Claims 22-26 are retained herein pending final disposition of the present application.

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In view of the above amendment and remarks, prompt and favorable action on all claims are respectfully requested. If any matters remain open after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

2/26/01



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